

The American Journal of the Medical Sciences. Edited by Isaac Hays, M.D. No. 34. New Series. April, 1849. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Dr. Hays.*

The Medical News and Library. Vol. VII. No. 76. April, 1849. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Lea and Blanchard.*

Mr. Ord read an obituary notice of the late Charles Alexander Lesueur, a member of this Society.

On motion of Dr. Bache, the privilege was granted to Mr. Ord of having his memoir of Mr. Lesueur printed in any scientific journal.

Prof. Loomis stated that he had rewritten his paper on the Progress of Astronomy, prepared for the Smithsonian Institution, an account of which was presented to the Society at a former meeting, especially the part in relation to the history of American Observatories, in which he has now adopted a chronological order. Prof. L. read a sketch of this part of his paper.

Pending nominations, Nos. 226, 227 and 228, were read.

Stated Meeting, April 20.

Present, seventeen members.

Dr. PATTERSON, President, in the Chair.

Letters were received and read:—

From A. D. Bache, Superintendent U. S. Coast Survey, dated Washington, 11th April, 1849, enclosing a communication from Lieut. Gilliss: and—

From Edward Armstrong, dated Philadelphia, 18th April, 1849, making application on behalf of the Maryland Historical Society, for a copy of a volume of Indian Vocabularies in possession of this Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Annals and Magazine of Natural History. Vol. III. No. 15. March, 1849. London. 8vo.—*From Sir William Jardine.*

Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society. Vol. III. 1848-9. Newark, N. J. 1849. 8vo.—*From the New Jersey Historical Society.*

Researches upon the Vital Dynamics of Civil Government. By Bennett Dowler, M.D. of New Orleans. New Orleans. 1849. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

Report to the President and Directors of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Rail Road Company. By Solomon W. Roberts, Chief Engineer. 1849.—*From the Author.*

Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Jan. 1849. (Discussion of the Observations of the Planet Metis, with a determination of its orbit, &c.)—*From the Academy.*

The Committee appointed, at the last meeting, on the subject of the communication from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, in relation to the Observatory at Altona, reported the following resolutions, which were adopted, and the same Committee appointed to carry them into effect.

“*Resolved*, That the American Philosophical Society would deeply lament the interruption of the labours of Prof. Schumacher, at Altona, believing, as they do, in common with the lovers of astronomy throughout the world, that the Altona Observatory, and the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, have, in his hands, contributed very largely to the advancement of that science; and that, in their opinion, the discontinuance of the journal, so ably conducted by Prof. Schumacher, which has been, during more than a quarter of a century, the medium of communication between astronomers and mathematicians of all countries, would prove a source of embarrassment to the progress of astronomy, which they trust may be averted.

“*Resolved*, That a Committee of three be appointed to transmit, to Prof. Schumacher, a copy of these resolutions.”

Lieut. Gilliss read a communication intended for the Transactions, and entitled “On the subject of the Determination of the Longitude of the Washington, D. C. Observatory, by comparison of Moon culminations with European Observations;” which was referred to a Committee, consisting of Prof. Kendall, Mr. Longstreth, and Prof. Frazer.

Mr. Justice exhibited specimens of gold found on the farm of Samuel Ellicott, Montgomery county, Maryland, about 30 miles from Baltimore.

The locality has been known but for a few months, and appears to be valuable. Three samples examined at the Mint, yielded as follows:—

No. 1	yielded at the rate of 744 grains per cwt. of ore, or \$610.00 per ton.
No. 2	” 960 ” 787.20 ”
No. 3	” 206 ” 168.80 ”
	—
Average,	636 522

The quartz which forms the matrix of the gold, crops out amidst a decomposed talcose slate, so that quarrying is very easy. Ores of copper and iron are also present.

Messrs. Bowman & Ebbett, of New York, state that much gold appears to be disseminated throughout the gangue, in so minute a state of division, as to be invisible to the naked eye.

The following extract of a letter from Prof. Emmons, of Albany, describes the geological character of the locality.

The geological formation consists of the talcose slate, mainly in a state of entire decomposition, or disintegration, probably, to a great depth; subordinate to the slate there are regular masses of hornblende rock, or more properly, sienite, which appears often in large beds, forming knolls upon the surface.

In addition to the hornblende, is the quartz, or flint rock, in beds or seams, traversing the slate in lines parallel to that of the slate, all of which runs N. and S. or N. N. W.; these quartz veins constitute the matrix of the gold; they vary in width from half an inch to fifty feet, all of which appears to be auriferous.

Having satisfied myself of the character of the beds, and of the rock formation generally, I proceeded on the second day to determine the fact, whether the gold was common to the seams of quartz which I had found in place; I selected from three of these seams or beds, two of them narrow, the other from a bed at least 50 feet thick; in each and all of them I obtained gold, Mr. Derby washing it for me. The fifty feet bed, of course, was not tested as it should be; but a specimen of the mass, taken at random, which contained oxide of iron, and which appeared as favourable as any part.

I did not indeed expect to find it, but there was no doubt of the fact. It is not so rich apparently as the thinner beds, and the particles of gold are smaller; but it was found in the first and only piece of the rock which I tried.

The most important point which I supposed you wished me to di-

rect my attention, and to determine, without question, was the probable quantity of quartz, or ore, as it is called.

On this point I satisfied myself that there is an abundance, leaving out of view entirely the heavy beds of quartz which I found cropping out at the surface on two sides of the farm; seams or veins, from half an inch to eighteen inches, exist, no doubt, concealed by the soil. I say this on the ground, that large pieces of quartz have been carted from the soil.

The condition of these quartz veins is quite remarkable and interesting, and will be found standing up in the midst of a mass of perfectly disintegrated slate, a fact which will greatly facilitate mining operations and diminish the expense of excavation, the whole work being reduced to the simple operation of shoveling.

This morning I tried a piece of the quartz which I brought home, and found it rich, although I could not discover, by a microscope, any particles of gold. It will be understood, however, that I do not speak of the yield of gold. I did not deem it at all necessary to analyze the rock for this purpose, but it was proper that I should see the gold produced from specimens of my own selection.

I should have accompanied this report with a sketch of the geological formations of the place, but it does not appear necessary, and indeed I could not do it accurately without measurement.

I think the richest part of the farm is that towards the wood land, and that the best way for working is to cut a deep trough or ditch, running east and west, through the centre of the field, and work each way the seams of quartz as they are met with; this will intersect the quartz at right angles, and give great facilities in working.

There being no quorum for election present, the stated business of the meeting was postponed.

On motion of Mr. Trego, permission was granted to the Maryland Historical Society to have a copy made of the Indian Vocabularies in the possession of this Society, provided the same be made under the superintendence and direction of the Librarian.

The Reporter laid upon the table No. 42, of the Proceedings of the Society.